

## REMARKS

In the final Office Action dated November 8, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-18, and 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. ("Sugiyama") (U.S. Patent No. 5,350,031) in view of Moore (U.S. Patent No. 6,306,056).

Claims 1-3, 5-18, and 20-27 are now pending in this application. By this Reply, Applicants have amended claims 1, 10, 14, and 17.

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for speaking with Applicants' representatives on January 31, 2006. The remarks presented below are consistent with the topics discussed during the meeting.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-18 and 20-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiyama in view of Moore. No *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established with respect to claim 1 for at least the reason that the combination of Sugiyama and Moore fails to disclose or suggest every claim element included in claim 1.

For example claim 1 includes a combination of elements including, *inter alia*, "a first engine tuned to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value within a first range of rotations per minute [and] a second engine tuned to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value within a second range of rotations per minute, wherein the second range of rotations per minute is different than the first range . . ." Sugiyama and Moore fail to teach or suggest at least these claim elements.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Moore discloses “a controller (70) to control the first engine, when the torque requirement is greater than the first engine can be supplied or when the first engine is operating outside of a predetermined set of operating parameters, the controller is provided a signal to the second engine to provide additional torque to the drive wheel of the vehicle.” See Office Action at page 5, paragraph 4. However Moore does not disclose “a first engine tuned to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value within a first range of rotations per minute [and] a second engine tuned to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value within a second range of rotations per minute, wherein the second range of rotations per minute is different than the first range” as required by claim 1.

Moore discloses a dual engine hybrid electric vehicle having two engines, but there is no teaching or suggestion in Moore that the two engines are tuned differently so that the engines have minimum specific fuel consumption values within different rotations per minute ranges. Moore, in fact, suggests that the opposite is true by disclosing that both engines are similar and have the same power rating. See Moore, column 4, lines 10-11. Furthermore, Sugiyama, relied on for its disclosure of a plural generator apparatus that includes two generators and a single engine (see Office Action at page 2, paragraph 3), fails to remedy the deficiency of Moore. For example, Sugiyama does not disclose two engines wherein the engines are tuned to have minimum specific fuel consumption values within different rotations per minute ranges.

The Examiner did not specifically address independent claims 10, 14, and 17. Nevertheless, claims 10, 14, and 17, although different in scope, include elements similar to the elements of claim 1. For example, claim 10 includes “operating a first

engine within a first range of rotations per minute, within which the first engine has been tuned to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value [and] if the first engine is operating outside of the predetermined set of parameters, operating a second engine within a second range of rotations per minute, within which the second engine has been tuned to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value.” Claim 14 includes “tuning the first engine to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value within a first range of engine speeds and engine torques [and] tuning the second engine to have a minimum specific fuel consumption value within a second range of engine speeds and engine torques, wherein the first range is different than the second range.” None of these elements, among others, is disclosed or suggested by the combination of Sugiyama and Moore. Therefore, independent claims 10, 14, and 17 are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above. Dependent claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-16, 18, and 20-27 ultimately depend from one of claims 1, 10, 14, and 17, and, therefore, are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above and in view of their additional recitations of novelty. Because no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established with respect to claims 1-3, 5-18, and 20-27, as amended, the Section 103(a) rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

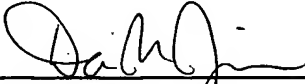
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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